

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, RH, TZ
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: SECRETARY'S DISCUSSION WITH
TANZANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MKAPA

REF: USUN 1732

SUMMARY: THE FOLLOWING SUMMARY COVERS THE SECRETARY'S
BRIEF DISCUSSION OF BYRON HOVE'S APRIL 28 DISMISSAL
FROM THE RHODESIAN TRANSITION GOVERNMENT WITH TANZANIAN
FOREIGN MINISTER MKAPA AND PERMREP SALIM ON APRIL 30.
IT IS TRANSMITTED FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S REVIEW AND
FURTHER DISTRIBUTION AS DESIRED. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION OF NAMIBIA WITH TANZANIAN FORE-
IGN MINISTER MKAPA IN NEW YORK APRIL 30 (REFTEL), THE
SECRETARY ASKED MKAPA'S VIEW OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE
DISMISSAL FROM THE RHODESIAN TRANSITION GOVERNMENT OF
JOINT JUSTICE MINISTER BYRON HOVE. HE SUGGESTED THAT
HOVE'S BREAK WITH THE INTERNAL REGIME MIGHT BE THE
BEGINNING OF DISINTEGRATION. ALTHOUGH THE SMITH GOVERN-
MENT IS COMMITTED TO ELECTIONS BY DECEMBER 31, 1978,
THERE WOULD NOT SEEM MUCH CHANCE OF CARRYING THEM OUT.
HE WONDERED WHETHER THIS DEVELOPMENT MIGHT NOT GIVE US
ANOTHER CHANCE TO ARRANGE TALKS AMONG ALL OF THE PARTIES.
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2. MKAPA SAID HE THOUGHT IT WAS GOOD THAT IT WAS
AN ARTICULATE MAN LIKE HOVE WHO MADE THE BREAK. BECAUSE
HE HAS BEEN OUTSPOKEN IN EXPRESSION OF THE
ATTITUDES OF THE BLACKS, ANY REPLACEMENT FOR HOVE WILL
APPEAR TO BE AN OBVIOUS PUPPET AND NOT CREDIBLE. HE
SPECULATED THAT IF BISHOP MUZOREWA HAS THE STRENGTH TO

STAND UP AND OPPOSE HOVE'S DISMISSAL, IT MIGHT MAKE THE NEW REGIME STRONGER IN THE END. HE SAID HE HAD NO IDEA WHAT MUZOREWA IS LIKELY TO DO, SINCE HE IS AN "IMPOSSIBLE MAN", CHANGEABLE AND UNPREDICTABLE. HE THOUGHT SITHOLE'S DETERMINATION TO STICK WITH THE NEW REGIME WOULD BE STRENGTHENED BY THE NEW DEVELOPMENT.

3. TANZANIAN PERMREP SALIM SAID FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS WILL LARGELY BE DETERMINED BY MUZOREWA'S REACTION TO HOVE'S DISMISSAL. IF THE BISHOP PRESSES THE PRINCIPLES WHICH LED TO HOVE'S DISMISSAL, HE MAY STRENGTHEN HIS POSITION WITHIN RHODESIA, BUT IF HE BACKS OFF AND MAN-EUVERS TO AVOID THE PRINCIPLES INVOLVED HE WILL BE GREATLY WEAKENED. HOWEVER IT WORKS OUT FOR THE INTERNAL LEADERS, HOVE'S ACTION MAKES THE PATRIOTIC FRONT THE WINNER.

4. SALIM SAID HE AGREED WITH THE SECRETARY THAT THIS DEVELOPMENT WILL HELP TO PROMOTE THE ALL-PARTIES TALKS. HE SAID HE PERSONALLY WAS INTRIGUED TO KNOW WHETHER MUZOREWA WAS INVOLVED IN THE HOVE DISMISSAL, AS SOME HAVE CHARGED. HE SAID SITHOLE AND CHIRAU HAVE NOWHERE ELSE TO GO, SO THEY WILL STICK WITH THE INTERNAL AGREEMENT REGARDLESS OF WHAT HAPPENS. MUZOREWA, HOWEVER, COULD SHIFT OUT OF THE INTERNAL ARRANGEMENTS IF THERE ARE FURTHER BLACK DESERTIONS. MKAPA SAID HE
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THOUGHT MUZOREWA WAS TOO WEDDED TO THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT TO BAIL OUT OF IT NOW. SALIM SAID IT SEEMED CLEAR TO HIM THAT IF MUZOREWA CHANGES COURSE AGAIN, BACKING OUT OF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT, IT WOULD WEAKEN HIS INTERNAL POLITICAL POSITION, DRAWING HIM CLOSER IN DEPENDENCE ON SMITH. HE CONCLUDED BY CALLING THE HOVE DISMISSAL A BLESSING, WHATEVER THE EFFECTS ON THE REGIME. YOUNG

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